(c) SRFTI is constantly in the process of upgrading its curriculum and infrastructure and has proposed two new Courses on Production Management and Animation and Electronic Imaging during the 11th Five Year Plan period.

Construction of Akashwani Kendra at Pithoragarh

†950. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building of Akashwani Kendra has been constructed in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand);

(b) if so, when the construction work has started and when that building has been constructed;

(c) whether the broadcasting work has been started by the Akashwani Kendra at Pithoragarh; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure sanction for the construction of building for AIR Pithoragarh was accorded in November, 1991 and building was ready for installation work in August, 1994.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Content code proposed by Government

951. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether broadcasters and other stakeholders have submitted their views on the Content Code proposed by Government;

(b) if so, the details of view given by various broadcasters and stakeholders;

(c) whether it is a fact that a meeting was held in the first week of September, 2007, with the broadcasters in connection with the proposed Content Code; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Broadcasters and Stakeholders have submitted their views on the latest formulation of the draft Self-Regulation Guidelines and Certification Rules proposed by the Committee formed by the Government. Views both for and against the formulation have been aired which are mainly as follows:

Industry's concerns :

* Totally reject the Code in concept and principle. Support formulation of their own self regulation guidelines within one year.

* Opposed to provision of Content Auditor as this is in fact the role of Editor. Immediacy of 24 hrs. live television makes this an unpractual idea.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

* Chief Editor not to be personally liable for violation.
* Doubt autonomy of proposed Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) and against indirect control of media by Government through BRAI.
* News reporting not to be covered under General guidelines.
* Infringement of privacy.
* Categorisation and scheduling of 'A'/UA'.
* Definition of different categories and themes are vague and subjective thus open to different interpretation.

Consumer Group & Civil Society Organisations:

* Depiction of violence as glamorous or using it to shock or stimulate the audience, excessive gore, pain or physical suffering, footages of human or animal blood or dead bodies in the news content should be prohibited.
* Scenes containing excessive violence force inappropriate for home viewing and the images that encourage imitation by children or frighten children should be limited.
* Opposed to telecast of adult content on television.
* Public service messaging must be made mandatory.
* Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) must be constituted immediately.

A meeting was held with the broadcasters on 7.9.2007 to discuss only the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill and it has been decided to carry out further close consultation with various stakeholders and State Governments before finalizing the draft Bill. The Bill *inter alia* seeks to set up a Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India to deal with content issues amongst others. The present draft of the Bill is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in

Title-Seizure of Closed Newspapers

952. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the newspapers which have closed during the last five years;

(b) have titles of all such newspapers been seized;

(c) if not, what is the time-frame when this title-seizure would be completed; and

(d) is their any mechanism of periodic check-ups to ensure compliance of extant rules and regulations governing print media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The details of newspapers, which have closed during the last five years as per the ceasing declaration received from the publishers through the District Magistrates, are given in the Statement (*See* below)